



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center & Gardens
570 West Avenue Twenty-six, Suite 100
Los Angeles, California 90065
Phone (323) 221-8900

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

FROM:  Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Executive Officer

DATE: October 6, 2004

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item XI: Consideration of resolution accepting a grant from the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy for the development of eight interpretive displays at the Bosque del Rio Hondo Natural Area, Whittier.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing acceptance of a \$10,000 grant from the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC) to develop eight interpretive panels at the Bosque del Rio Hondo Natural Area.

Background: The Bosque del Rio Hondo Natural area is in the southern part of the Whittier Narrows Recreation Area, located along the Rio Hondo River near the Rio Hondo spreading basins. The park was developed by the MRCA in 1997 with Los Angeles County Safe Neighborhood Parks (Proposition A) funds. The property is owned by the United States Army Corps of Engineers, leased to Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation, and sub-leased to the MRCA. The park offers year-round access to the perennial flow of the Rio Hondo, a hiking trail, picnic areas, access to bike paths and equestrian trails, parking facilities, and restroom facilities. The area has a rich history which includes the establishment of several Tongva settlements and the construction of the original San Gabriel Mission by Spanish colonialists. The Bosque del Rio Hondo trail system is part of the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail.

The RMC has authorized a \$10,000 grant to the MRCA to develop eight interpretive panels for use in a community service kiosk at Bosque del Rio Hondo Natural Area. The interpretive panels will give park users basic information in both English and Spanish. In addition, the panels will provide highly pictorial interpretation of the natural history of the Rio Hondo, and its connection to the Los Angeles River, and the San Gabriel River watersheds. The displays will highlight native vegetation and wildlife, as well as the rich cultural history of Bosque del Rio Hondo.

